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## Pressure builds for review of deportations

By Jessie Mangaliman  
Mercury News

Santa Clara County government officials, religious leaders and immigrant advocates Thursday joined a growing chorus of people who are putting pressure on the INS to suspend deportation proceedings against hundreds of Korean immigrants who were issued fake green cards by a former INS supervisor more than a decade ago.

At a news conference called by state Assemblyman Manny Diaz, D-San Jose, representatives of the groups said the Immigration and Naturalization Service and Attorney General John Ashcroft should conduct individual case reviews of the 275 mostly Korean immigrants who may be forced to leave the country.

``We're not picking on the INS," said James McEntee, director of Santa Clara County's office of human relations. ``We're just saying get things right."

Sharon Rummery, a spokeswoman for the INS in San Francisco, declined to comment. Ashcroft has not responded to requests by legislators to stop the deportation proceedings.

A series of articles in the Mercury News last month detailed the plight of the immigrants, who said they applied for green cards not knowing that the San Jose immigration consultants they hired were bribing an INS official who authorized the documents.

Leland Dwayne Sustaire, a former supervisor at the INS office in San Jose, was convicted in federal court of accepting \$500,000 in bribes from the consultants over a 12-year period. Sustaire received probation and the four consultants served jail time ranging from several months to three years.

``Today, we stand side by side with the Korean-American community," said Helal Omeira, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Santa Clara.

``Our collective outrage today screams for justice," said Teresa Castellanos, of the Services, Immigrant Rights Education Network in San Jose.

On Monday, Diaz introduced a resolution asking the INS and Ashcroft to conduct a ``fair process" when considering whether to deport the immigrants. Reps. Mike Honda and Zoe Lofgren, both of San Jose, have also asked for a careful review.

Alex Park, a Santa Clara attorney who represents 95 of the immigrants, said he hopes the combined pressure from community groups and government officials will persuade the INS to suspend the deportation proceedings. One immigrant has been deported and at least 17 others have received deportation notices.

Those who are awaiting hearings learned that they were part of a green-card scheme upon their return to the United States after traveling abroad.

In recent weeks, the INS appears to have stepped up efforts to round up the immigrants, Park said. He said the INS has recently hired six agents to work on the cases. He also said at least 15 of his clients have received phone calls or letters from INS investigators, asking the immigrants to show up for interviews ``regarding the status of their green cards."

``The INS is moving fast," Park said. ``The INS is going after these people actively."

Park and others fear that the immigrants will not get a fair chance to prove their innocence.

``We support the immigrants in their pursuit of justice because we believe it's right," said the Rev. Duk Soo Kim, president of the Council Korean-American Churches Association in the Bay Area.

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